

CCTV in West Itchenor

The West Itchenor Parish Council is in the early stages of a project to evaluate the desirability and practicality of installing CCTV in the Village. Before any decisions are made, the Parish Council will consult with residents and probably hold a public meeting to discuss issues and views. A number of factors are being considered including:

- Attitude of residents to CCTV
- Costs – initial setup & annual running
- Location of camera(s)
- Equipment specification
- Use and access to data & images



The initial opinion of the Council is that CCTV should only be used for recording vehicle movements in and out of the Village and that data and images should only be available to the police and other appropriate organisations, following a specific incident in Itchenor. Although there will be full public consultation before any recommendations from the project are implemented, the Parish Council would also welcome any initial views from residents. Please contact the Parish Clerk, details [over / below].

Broadband and Mobile Phone Update

It is to be hoped that recent EU approval of the government's grants for the roll out of rural broadband will speed up the programme and inter alia improve the service in Itchenor. The sole provider, all other would be installers having dropped out, is BT. The latest information we have is that the Chichester exchange is due to be upgraded to fibre optics by 31st December this year. We have no indication at the moment as to when our local exchange, Birdham, will be up graded. It is worth noting that these fibre optic upgrades, which are essential for hi-speed broadband, are what is known as 'Fibre to the Cabinet' (FTTC). The so-called cabinets are the verge-sited boxes, usually dark green, that are at the junction of Shipton Green Lane and the B2179 (road to Birdham/Chichester). There is an additional cabinet sited on the verge adjacent to 'Rosiane' and opposite 'Old Farm Cottage'. Even when these cabinets are FTTC enabled the final connection to individual properties will still be via the copper cables strung from the poles which criss-cross the village. The present poor condition of the cables will be having a detriment effect on broadband reception now and it may be worth contacting BT with a view to improving the current situation. We will continue to monitor the situation.

Little progress has been made in improving mobile phone reception in the village. The advent of 4th generation (4G) technology should help and the supplier Everything Everywhere (EE), except Itchenor, will be offering their version of the 4G service shortly. Currently the one of the few handsets capable of using this service is Apple's iPhone 5. However, you should bear in mind that when the likes of O2 and Vodafone launch their services they will be using the part of the radio spectrum previously occupied by analogue TV. Confusingly the Apple iPhone does not work on those frequencies and will need to be physically modified to do so!

Sign at Village Pond

Eagle eyed residents will have noticed that the information sign at the Village pond has been replaced. An inspection of the sign, undertaken during routine maintenance, indicated severe deterioration of the wooden structure. It was decided to replace it and a new unit was commissioned from The Acorn Workshop of Yapton. The printed information panel was carefully cleaned and the whole unit fixed in place.



Our thanks to Peter Arnold for his help with the installation and to the Itchenor Society who provided the funds for the Nature Reserve Fund, from which the costs were defrayed.

Flooding in the Village

The Parish Council would like to remind residents of their responsibility to keep ditches and culverts clear. The Village has a good drainage network, but it will only function if water is able to flow through it unobstructed.



The Environment Agency has recently removed vegetation from the Rithe and may undertake de-silting works later in the year. They are planning to replace the outfall flap, the work having been approved in this year's budget.

Local Government

The last two years have been particularly eventful and the face of local government has changed with the enacting of the 2011 Localism Act and the 2012 Open Public Services White Paper. For local councils (Town & Parish) this is historic legislation and provides a range of new powers allowing them and their residents to have greater say over their area and enabling councils to work together more innovatively.

Amongst these new powers is the power of general competence giving principal and eligible local councils the legal capacity to do anything that an individual can do that is not specifically prohibited. The Act also introduced the community right to challenge giving local councils the right to request to take over the running of a principal council service. The community right to bid requires a principal authority to maintain lists of assets of community value which the community has the right to raise money and bid for when they come up for sale/change of ownership. Additionally the community right to build will become part of neighbourhood planning reforms, which give local councils and communities the right to shape and deliver small scale, site specific, developments required by the local community.

A change affecting NALC (National Association of Local Councils) and its work with Government has been the recent departmental reshuffle which resulted in a new ministerial team

for Eric Pickles MP, Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government. Greg Clarke MP (former Minister of Decentralisation) moved to the Treasury and was replaced by Don Foster MP (a Liberal Democrat and enduring supporter of the sector). Grant Schapps MP (former Minister for Housing) has become Co-Chairman of the Conservative Party. Bob Neill MP (former Parliamentary Under Secretary) now has a roving brief and is Conservative Party Vice-Chairman for Local Government. Mr Neill has been a very popular and committed Minister for our sector and local government overall. His post is now in the hands of Brandon Lewis MP whilst Andrew Stunnell MP, another former Parliamentary Under Secretary, has left Government. Senior members of NALC had two recent meetings with Brandon Lewis MP who also addressed the recent national conference for local councils and is proving to have a genuine commitment to the sector and the localism agenda. We look forward to the address of Eric Pickles MP, whom will be welcomed again at the NALC Larger Local Councils National Conference in November.

Police and Crime Commissioners

Residents will be aware that elections for local Police and Crime Commissioners take place on Thursday 15th November. Full details of this new role and our local candidates are available at: www.sussexpcc.co.uk/candidates.aspx

General Power of Competence

The General Power of Competence was brought into force as part of the Localism Act 2011 in March 2012. The power is a central part of Governments move towards the decentralisation of powers down to the lowest practical level of local government. For eligible Parish Councils the power to do anything an individual may generally do as long as they do not break any other laws. For example a Parish Council that is eligible to use the power may:

- Lend or invest money
- Set up a company or co-operative society to trade in commercial activity
- Run a community shop or post office

There are some restrictions and the Parish Council must have the support of the local community. Existing duties remain in place such as having regard to the likely effect on crime and disorder and the duty to consider the provision of allotments.

West Itchenor Parish Council confirmed at the July Parish Council meeting that it had met the eligibility criteria and was therefore able to use the Power of General Competence.

Itchenor Sailing Club

Itchenor Sailing Club invites all Itchenor residents to use the Club's facilities during the winter. Full details on the Club's website www.itchenorsc.co.uk

West Itchenor Parish Council

Chairman	Michael Chater - Itchenor Cottage, Shipton Green, PO20 7DA
Vice Chairman	Graham Colbourne - Mizzen Top, Itchenor Road, PO20 7AA
Councillors	Jane Boadle - River House, Spinney Lane, Itchenor PO20 7DJ
	Jim Hartley - Fairfield, Itchenor PO20 7AE
	Alastair Spencer - Anchor Cottage, Itchenor PO20 7AB
	Susan Taylor - Dobbies, Itchenor Road, PO20 7AA
	Sarah Varvill - Farleigh Cottage, Glebefield Road, Itchenor PO20 7DB
Parish Clerk :	Carol Smith - 6 Locksash Close, West Wittering. PO20 8QP
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